Gays only want basic rights

G.T. 4-23-91

I am a registered nurse, I vote, I am middle class and I pay a lot of taxes. I love to hike, swim, read, laugh . . . and I love other women.

I don't believe I sound very scary, unhealthy or abnormal. I do believe I represent the vast majority of lesbians in this community. Most of the lesbians I know are hard-working citizens forced into the closet because of fear. Fear of being fired is real and fear of verbal and physical abuse is real in this city.

People who argue against including sexual orientation in the city anti-discrimination ordinance say: Gays already have their rights; that they don't want "those" kind of people in their schools or hospitals; and that all gay people are disease carriers.

How can gay people already have basic rights if it is OK in many work places to fire a person because he or she is gay?

Many teachers, counselors, nurses, physicians and therapists are gay and do an excellent job. I do not want to shove my lifestyle in anyone's face. I just want job security. I also want to be able to go to social activities at work without having to lie about why I do not have a male companion.

I don't expect special rights for being a lesbian — just my basic rights to be able to live a full, open life with the person I love.

— Tami Gaylor
Colorado Springs

Homosexuals get special treatment

G.T. 4-4-91

Homosexuals (who represent 2 percent to 3 percent of the population, not the 10 percent they would have us believe) and their misguided supporters apparently feel they are not getting a fair shake in society and therefore believe that they should get special treatment.

The facts of the matter are quite different, because they do indeed now enjoy special treatment. For example, almost every major university in the country will, in violation of First Amendment rights, punish any student for writing or saying anything which can be construed to be anti-homosexual.

For example: Had a group of white thugs desecrated a black church as did a group of homosexual thugs desecrate St. Patrick's Cathedral, there would have been massive arrests, special grand jury hearings, an outpouring of media outrage. Fact is, we know none of the above was the case.

For example: Producers of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes must advertise the fact that their products are harmful to your health and may cause serious life-threatening illness. When was the last time you saw a billboard warning that homosexual activity may cause the dreaded AIDS disease?

For example: A life/health insurance company may question an applicant about their past medical history, which would influence their ability to grant a policy, except they may not question the applicant regarding their possible exposure to the AIDS virus. As a matter of fact, our public health organizations handle AIDS and those who spread it differently from any other sexually transmitted disease, even though it is far more devastating.

The bottom line is that most people probably don't care what is done behind closed doors. What they do care about is being asked to legitimize it, propagate it, pay for its consequences or treat it as a legitimate minority.

Hopefully the members of the City Council who waffled on this matter will realize that the people of Colorado Springs are not homophobic but rather haven't kicked over our morals and common sense.

— Jack Palmer
Colorado Springs